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HO KONG WAR CHARITIES. ST. DUNSTON'S HOME FOR BLINDED SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG
DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—I attach for the favour of publication a short article giving some details which may assist to bring home to Hongkong the kind of work being done by the St. Dunstan's Home for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, with a note of the extent to which Hongkong has so far been enabled to help this Institution in carrying out our national obligations.

It is proposed to continue articles of the same nature covering in turn all the objects which Hongkong has assisted and desires to assist, with the object of keeping subscribers as closely in touch as may be with the precise uses to which their funds are put, and to stimulate what should be by far the most valuable form of subscription to the War Charities—the monthly subscription. Subscriptions of any amount, however small, are acceptable; and if the community, individually or by messes, or in whatever shape may be most convenient, will support the idea of making subscriptions regularly, it may be safely prophesied that the total reached will soon surprise those who have shared in making it up.

The monthly subscription does not imply that the same amount must be paid every month, without variation or reduction, if subscribers will give what they can afford to give month by month, instead of waiting for that vague period "when I can put up something really decent" that "something decent" will be found to have accumulated with the loss of it hardly felt; while the comparatively regular support that it will be possible to give to the object selected will greatly increase the value of every dollar subscribed.

That there is room for the effort of which the Colony is capable needs no demonstration; the article on St. Dunstan's and the others to follow will, it is hoped, serve towards keeping some one phase of the need for such effort constantly fresh in mind.—Yours faith-
fully,
E. B. HALLIFAX,
Hon. Sec. War Charities Committee.

ST. DUNSTON'S HOME FOR BLINDED
SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.
(Organised by Sir Arthur Pearson.)

The Hongkong War Charities have subscribed £1,969.13.6 to St. Dunstan's Hostel, of which £1,500 has been allocated by the Executive Committee, and the remainder represents ear-marked subscriptions. The Donations of the Hongkong War Charities to the above fund have been commemorated

(a.) By the setting up of a Memorial Tablet in the Hall of the National Institute for the Blind, and
(b.) By the naming of a bed at St. Dunstan's Hostel "The Hongkong Bed" together with a suitable inscription over such bed.

The following is an extract from a letter received by a member of the Executive Committee from one of the sisters who is working at St. Dunstan's Hostel: "I heard a couple of weeks ago that you were rather interested in the work being done at St. Dunstan's and that you would like to know something of its work."

"Entry into St. Dunstan's is entirely voluntary on the part of the men, and only a very small number have refused to become inmates; of course the less is theirs, as residence here teaches the men such an important thing, that to be blind does not necessarily mean being useless to themselves and a burden to others."

"Everything about St. Dunstan's is arranged to teach them confidence in themselves, for instance, the Entrance Hall is covered with carpets except where the path leads direct to a door, and directly their feet leave the linoleum paths they know they are wrong; the same idea is carried out in the grounds, and it is really wonderful how soon the men learn their way about."

"All the men learn Braille, writing and reading, also typewriting, and most of the men pass the recognised tests in those subjects."

"The profession taught is Massage. Of course only the suitable men are advised to take this up; on completion of their training they obtain posts in Military Hospitals, at very good salaries. It is very hard work for the men and they take exactly the same course as sighted massours and qualify in a year, provided that there are no delays owing to illness or return to hospitals for further operations."

"As trades, Poultry Farming, Boot Repairing, Fibre Mat-making, Basket Work and Carpentry are taught, also Netting making."

"Telephone has been learnt, and one man, an engineer by trade, learnt diving and has found employment with a firm doing that work for the Admiralty."

"Beyond the actual training of the men, a very important branch of the work is that of the After-Care Department, for which special purpose monies have been earmarked so that the men will never want during their lives, and some one will always be responsible for them, and for seeing that the trades they have learnt are being followed in suitable places and conditions."

(Continued at foot of next column.)

CORRESPONDENCE. THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT.

[To the Editor of the "HONGKONG
DAILY PRESS."]

SIR,—Your correspondent, Mr. Trevor Channer, has made a mistake. In his letter he says: "I sincerely hope all of us, who are proud to name ourselves as members of the Holy Catholic Church, we may at this sad time pour out our souls on behalf of our valiant sons who are fighting for the peace and goodwill, Christ came on Earth to bring."

If Mr. Channer would refresh his memory by occasionally looking at the Bible, he would learn that Christ himself said, "I do not come to give peace to the world, but a sword."—Yours truly,
ANOTHER CATHOLIC.

H.M. Dockyard, February 24th, 1917.

PRESENTATION TO CAPTAIN CHAMPKIN.

In view of his approaching marriage, Capt. Champkin, of the Calcutta Rifles, and attached to "A" Company, Hongkong Volunteer Reserves, was recently presented by the Company with a handsome gold watch, suitably inscribed.

The presentation was made on behalf of the Company by Sgt.-Major F. L. Cooke, who, in the course of a few remarks, said the Company made the presentation as a token of esteem and appreciation for the valuable services rendered by Capt. Champkin. He (Capt. Champkin) had always taken a great interest in the Company since he had been attached to it, and they all wished him a long and happy married life.

In returning thanks, Capt. Champkin said he had endeavoured at all times to place his men in the same footing as himself, with a due regard to tact and discretion. He hoped to be in charge of them for a long time yet, and felt sure that they would all do their best to be as much credit to him as they evidently considered he was to them.

"The great idea of the work here is to make the men feel they will be independent beings again."

"In this house, which is an annex, we have 25 men, all training as Messengers, and it is wonderful how they manage for themselves; some one is always at hand in case they are unable to manage, but we do try not to do too much for them. I have been with these men nearly 8 months and we can't honestly say that blindness has made them unhappy; they are subject to terrible fits of depression, but when these pass, it is sometimes very difficult to realise we are working amongst blinded men, and they are so cheery and determined to make the best of existing circumstances."

"I was nursing in this house for 3 weeks last August when our men were on leave and I had 6 men straight in from hospital; three were youngsters 19-21 years of age, and it came as a pleasant shock to them to learn that they would ever be able to do things for themselves again; especially when they found they could find their way about the house unaided in a very short while, and it just shows how very valuable and necessary the work done there is to our men."

"I think there are just about 200 of floors and men here now, and another very big annex is being opened after Christmas for over 150 men. At present, St. Dunstan's has two annexes, this one and another small house near by, two convalescent houses at Brighton and Torquay and one at Blackheath."

"Of the three booklets I enclose the 1916 Report of St. Dunstan's is such a very true and plain statement of what is being accomplished that I hardly know how to better it. All I know is that to one who has worked here all these months it is a wonderful work, and most of the men realise the very great debt they owe to Sir Arthur Pearson and St. Dunstan's, and their opinion is that the success is due to his head—Sir Arthur Pearson—being blind himself, so thoroughly understanding what is necessary for their happiness and welfare, and also the difficulties they work under. As a whole they are suspicious and jealous; when we come to work here we are warned of those failings and to make allowances for them. If there is anything I can tell you, let me know and I will do my best, but it is very difficult to put on paper the wonderful atmosphere of the place and the men in it."

Other very appreciative letters have been received of which the following are extracts:—

From the Secretary of St. Dunstan's: "It is very generous of this Charity Fund to help the blinded Soldiers and Sailors in this practical way, and I hope that you will accept our thanks for your kind offices in this matter."

From Sir Arthur Pearson: "It is very good indeed of this Fund to wish to help us in this practical way in what we are doing here for the benefit of the brave fellows who have lost their sight at the Front, and I trust that you will be able to convey to them an expression of my very sincere thanks for this kindly helpfulness."

Also from Sir Arthur Pearson: "I hope that you will allow me to make myself the mouthpiece of the gallant men who will so materially benefit by this generosity, and offer through you to the Committee of the Hongkong War Charities Fund an expression of their cordial thanks."

SPORT. CRICKET.

C.R.C. DEFEAT UNIVERSITY.

The Chinese Recreation Club created a big surprise in local cricket circles on Saturday by defeating a strong University team. Bating first, the University, with the exception of Marley and Pousonby Fane, made an unusually bad show. Marley opened his shoulders as once, and had scored two sixes, placing a ball in the pavilion, before he was splendidly caught in the outfield. Faced with 80 runs, the C.R.C. commenced in a most unimpressive manner, but eventually Ua Hew Fan and Ho Wing Kin made a stand, and before they were separated the C.R.C. were in a winning position. They went on to win by 40 runs. A feature of the University innings was the fielding of the C.R.C. no less than six of the University batsmen being caught. Scores:—

R. Pousonby Fane, b Ho Wing Kin	24
Ng Sze Kwong, hit wicket, b	0
Ho Wing Kin	0
G. E. Marley, c J. Wong, b Un	30
K. Brayshaw, c Kew, b Un	0
J. D. Wright, c Mok Hing, b Ho	15
Wing Kin	15
A. de Souza, c and b Yew Man	0
Man Tsun	0
A. H. Bunniah, c Ching, b Yew	2
Man Tsun	2
A. G. Warren, b Yew Man Tsun	1
G. Hall, c Ching, b Yew Man Tsun	1
W. G. Williams, b Ho Wing Kin	0
D. P. Dixon, not out	0
Extras	6

Total	86
Bowling Analysis	
Ho Wing Kin	10.2 1 32 4
Un Hew Fan	6 1 45 2
Yew Man Tsun	4 1 3 4

Wong Po Kung, run out	0
Wei Lee Son, b Dixon	0
Yew Man Tsun, c de Souza, b	0
Dixon	7
Ng Sze Yue, b Brayshaw	8
Geo. Lee, c Pousonby Fane, b	0
Dixon	0
Un Hew Fan, c Dixon, b Bray-	26
shaw	48
Ho Wing Kin, not out	48
H. Ching, c and b Marley	0
A. Kew, run out	0
J. Wong, b Brayshaw	0
Mok Hing, run out	10
Extras	7

Total	126
Bowling Analysis	
K. Brayshaw	13 4 57 3
D. P. Dixon	10 2 28 3
G. E. Marley	10 0 35 1
Ng Sze Kwong	0.2 0 1 0

KOWLOON C.C. v. A MILITARY ELEVEN.

In this match, played at King's Park on Saturday, the Military won easily by 45 runs and two wickets. For the winners, Pearce made 33, Wyatt 26, and Scott 20, while Scott also took 4 wickets for 4 runs. For the losers W. H. Stapleton made 38, and F. Travers took 3 wickets for 2 runs. The scores were:—Military 139 for 9 wickets, Kowloon 95.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

K.S.L.I. v. H.K.F.C.

This match took place on the Club Ground, on Saturday, before a fairly large crowd. It was an important one for the Club, as a win for them put them into the final for the Hongkong League. The play was tame for a time, the Club having rather the best of the opening exchanges but seldom looking very dangerous. Stalker made an opening for Robinson, who made a big effort, but finished by putting the ball into the side of the net. Clayton brought off several very fine clearances, and once Pritchards saved with Stalker and Walker both almost in the goal-mouth. Stalker appeared to be off form, several times obtaining nice passes when unmarked, only to lose them again by being too slow in clearing. The Shropshires took up the running for a bit and Poplew, given a chance by Home, sent the ball behind. Machin got going but was pulled up by Dikie, while Clayton again brought off some very fine clearances. The Club then had a fair opportunity to score, but Walker put rather weakly behind. Machine got through the Club defence but missed the goal. Vaughan stopped a rush by Robinson but was compelled to concede a corner, and Robinson, taking the kick, put it yards behind. The Club players were not combining at all well although having most of the play. Williams appeared to be a manager, but never seriously tested. After a time the ball seemed to go to him, with the result that it was generally sent well away in the opposite direction. Black brought down an opponent somewhat heavily, and a free kick was awarded the Shropshires. It was of no use to them, however, and, shortly afterwards, Stalker, taking a free kick for the Club, put in a good shot which narrowly missed the goal. An off-side stopped the soldiers in their opponent's goalmouth, while at the other end an effort by Stewart for Walker through, but Clayton cleared before a shot could be made. Braddock looked dangerous but was given offside, and the play was transferred to the other end again. There was no score when the interval arrived.

As resuming, the Shropshires went away well, and for a time their forwards, ably supported by the halves, kept the Club defence very busy, but Goldenberg was never seriously tested. After a time the Club forwards got going and Stalker was twice stopped when he looked dangerous. From a lousy kick by Williams, Machin got the ball and manoeuvred his way between the Club backs. Goldenberg, however, was on the alert, and ran out and cleared. McTavish, accepting a nice pass from Stalker, next came to the fore, and was steadily himself to shoot, when Home ran across and saved at the expense of a corner. Cleno, who rarely plays without managing to get himself more or less seriously hurt, got injured and caused a stoppage of play. He soon recovered, however, and continued playing and applause from the stand. The rest seemed to have put new life into him, for, taking a nice pass on the run, he carried the ball well up the field, finishing with a well-placed centre, which Walker neatly converted. The soldiers tried hard to avert defeat, Williams at centre-half working particularly hard, but no goals were forthcoming. Walker, at the other end, again put in a good shot, but the ball was handled on route by a Shropshire defender. Stalker took the resulting penalty kick, but shot wide, much to the delight of the soldiers' supporters. There was no further scoring, the Club finishing winners by one goal to nil. Referee—Mr. Davies. Teams:—

K.S.L.I.—Pritchards; Clayton and Vaughan; Morris, Williams and Home; Braddock, Machin, Pritchards, Jones and Poplew.
H.K.F.C.—Goldenberg; Black and Dikie; Robinson; Stewart and Railton; Robinson, Walker, Stalker, McTavish and Cleno.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

TRADE OF HONGKONG. MORE ANIMATION WANTED.

The following statistics have been taken from the fortnightly price current and market report of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

OPPIUM.

The stocks on the 22nd inst. were 330 chests of Patna opium, 118 of Benares, 170 of Malwa, and 25 Persian and Turkish. The exports during the interval to Shanghai, etc., have been 61 chests of Patna, 24 of Benares, 40 of Malwa and 181 Persian and Turkish. In uncrystallized Bengal opium, the balance of stocks on the 22nd inst. was 81 of Patna and 133 of Benares. No opium was holed by Government monopoly during the interval.

EXPORTS.

The Feathers market has been fairly active during the fortnight, but there has been only a small business, passing in Gieger. There has been no business in Galangal, but the Cassia Oil market has been easier, with nothing doing. No business has been done in Cassia Oil, the market being weak. The same may be said of Star Aniseed. There is no change to report in the dull condition of the Bristle market.

IMPORTS.

At the early part of the fortnight some of the Cotton Yarn imports, lowered prices in order to freely meet the demand, but towards the close, owing to the situation becoming more acute, there is an inclination on the part of importers to watch events before further operating, notwithstanding that the dealers are offering somewhat higher prices. Quotations are:—No. 10s at \$11/140, No. 12s at \$12/125, No. 16s at \$14/160, No. 20s at \$14/176. Arrivals, 3,300 bales. Sales 6,000 bales. Shipments nil. Unsold stock 6,000 bales. Banglades, 10,000 bales. The Wollem market continues poor. The cold season is nearly over, and it cannot be said that clearances have been good. Even last year's prices have been proved to be out of reach of the average native's pocket. There is still no market for Raw Cottons. As to Metals, there is very little change to report, business being extremely quiet. Sales of Wire Nails 3-7 for April, May delivery, are reported at 10s. Tinplates are firm. Yellow Metal is a stagnant market, and there is no change to chronicle in connection with Petroleum Products. The Coal market is nominal, and the Sugar market steady.

The local stock of flour is estimated in all at about 250,000 sacks, of which the greater portion consists of Japanese Milled Flour. Local prices: American Patent, \$4.50; American Cut off, \$3.60; American Straight, \$3.25; Shanghai Flour, \$32/40; Japanese 2nd Patent, \$2.95.

The American Market is strong, and prices are advancing.

OFFICIAL NIGHT.

The following table shows the standard time at which Official Night ends and begins during the month of March:—

Date	Ends	Begin
March 1st	6.34 a.m.	6.39 p.m.
" 2nd	6.33	6.38
" 3rd	6.31	6.36
" 4th	6.31	6.36
" 5th	6.30	6.40
" 6th	6.29	6.40
" 7th	6.28	6.40
" 8th	6.27	6.41
" 9th	6.26	6.42
" 10th	6.25	6.43
" 11th	6.25	6.43
" 12th	6.24	6.43
" 13th	6.23	6.43
" 14th	6.22	6.43
" 15th	6.20	6.44
" 16th	6.19	6.44
" 17th	6.18	6.44
" 18th	6.17	6.44
" 19th	6.16	6.45
" 20th	6.15	6.45
" 21st	6.14	6.45
" 22nd	6.13	6.45
" 23rd	6.13	6.47
" 24th	6.12	6.47
" 25th	6.11	6.47
" 26th	6.10	6.47
" 27th	6.08	6.47
" 28th	6.08	6.48
" 29th	6.08	6.48
" 30th	6.07	6.48
" 31st	6.06	6.48

"OUR LITTLE BIT SOCIETY."

The following letter has been received by Lady May:—

DEAR MADAM—I wish to thank you and "Our Little Bit Society" very much for the parcel of tobacco for the patients in this Clearing Station. It arrived to-day and will be very much appreciated.

I believe we have also received some handbags from your Society through Mrs. Edon.

With many thanks for your kindness.

Believe me, Yours truly,

(Sd.) H. H. HOLMAN, Col.

O.C. No. 6 Casualty Clearing Station.

January 15th, 1917.

recovered, however, and continued playing and applause from the stand. The rest seemed to have put new life into him, for, taking a nice pass on the run, he carried the ball well up the field, finishing with a well-placed centre, which Walker neatly converted. The soldiers tried hard to avert defeat, Williams at centre-half working particularly hard, but no goals were forthcoming. Walker, at the other end, again put in a good shot, but the ball was handled on route by a Shropshire defender. Stalker took the resulting penalty kick, but shot wide, much to the delight of the soldiers' supporters. There was no further scoring, the Club finishing winners by one goal to nil. Referee—Mr. Davies. Teams:—

K.S.L.I.—Pritchards; Clayton and Vaughan; Morris, Williams and Home; Braddock, Machin, Pritchards, Jones and Poplew.
H.K.F.C.—Goldenberg; Black and Dikie; Robinson; Stewart and Railton; Robinson, Walker, Stalker, McTavish and Cleno.

INTIMATIONS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

ESTABLISHED 1850.

TELEPHONE 1741.



NEW GOODS.

FOR THE

RACES.

LARGE SELECTIONS

AT

MODERATE PRICES.

GENTLEMEN'S LONDON MADE SHIRTS.

WHITE WOOL TAFFETA, LONG CLOTH, ZEPHYR,

AERTEX CELLULAR AND COTELLA SHIRTS,

IN ALL SIZES \$2.75 TO \$5.75 EACH.

IRISH LINEN COLLARS.

ALL SHAPES \$4.50 PER DOZEN.

THE LATEST STYLES IN

HATS, TIES, SOCKS, ETC., ETC.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

ISHERWOOD CIGARETTES.

HAND-MADE IN CAIRO.

No. 3, Large ...

\$4.50 per 100

or 2.30 .. 50

No. 4, Medium...

\$3.60 per 100

or 1.85 .. 50

No. 5, Small ...

\$3.20 per 100

or 1.65 .. 50

Ask your

tobacconist

for a tin

at once.



Known all over

the world as the

most popular

Egyptian

Cigarette

of to-day.

An absolutely

first quality

Cigarette.

Recommended

by all

connoisseurs.

Obtainable at:

HONGKONG CIGAR STORE.

GRAND-EGYPTIAN TOBACCO STORE.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN TOBACCO STORE.

KELLY & WALKER, Ltd.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

A. S. WATSON & Co.

HONGKONG HOTEL KIOSK.

[94-1]

Wm. Powell Ltd.

TELEPHONE 346

SMART DAY

AND

EVENING GOWNS

AT

SPECIAL PRICES THIS WEEK

TO CLEAR

BEFORE STOCKTAKING.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG.

RACE HOLIDAYS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all FIRE INSURANCE OFFICES will be CLOSED for the Transaction of PUBLIC BUSINESS TO-DAY (MONDAY), TO-MORROW (TUESDAY), and WEDNESDAY, the 26th, 27th and 28th instant, at 11.45 A.M.

By Order,

A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1917. [319]

MARINE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG.

RACE HOLIDAYS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all MARINE INSURANCE OFFICES will be CLOSED for the Transaction of PUBLIC BUSINESS TO-DAY (MONDAY), TO-MORROW (TUESDAY), and WEDNESDAY, the 26th, 27th and 28th instant, at 11.45 A.M.

By Order,

A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1917. [340]

HONGKONG HOTEL.

SPECIAL DINNERS will be served in the GRILL ROOM on the following

RACE DAYS—

TO-DAY (MONDAY),

TO-MORROW (TUESDAY)

AND

WEDNESDAY,

at \$3.50 per head.

ORCHESTRA in attendance.

Plan of tables at Hotel Office.

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HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

THE FINAL DIVIDEND DECLARED for the Year ending 31st December, 1916, at the rate of Two Pounds Three Shillings Sterling, together with a Bonus of Ten Shillings Sterling per Share, is Payable on and after MONDAY, the 26th day of February, Current, at the Office of the Corporation, where Shareholders are requested to apply for Warrants.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
N. J. STARR,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1917. [337]

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, AND REDUCED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED on THURSDAY, 1st March, to SATURDAY, 31st March, 1917, both days inclusive. The return of Capital of \$2.50 per Share will be paid to Shareholders on and after the 15th March, 1917, on presentation of Share Certificates for endorsement.

By Order of the
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Hongkong, 22nd February, 1917. [329]

LIFE INSURANCE.

MR. E. P. HENDERSON, late of the Indian Civil Service, 42, Leinster Gardens, London, W., who has been consulted over 21,000 times and placed annually for many years Life Policies exceeding three-quarters of a million sterling in amount, offers his advice ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGE on all matters of LIFE INSURANCE, on his conditions, a copy of which can be had on APPLICATION TO THE MANAGER OF THIS NEWSPAPER.

HOLDERS OF DOUBLE ENDOWMENT, DEFERRED (OR TONTINE) BONDS, POLICIES in any OFFICE, BRITISH OR AMERICAN, should at once communicate with Mr. Henderson, who can show them how to strengthen their position under these Policies.

SPECIAL SCHEMES of ALL OFFICES compared and criticized.

SPECIAL TERMS FOR TREATY PORTS.

HOME RATES ARRANGED FOR HONGKONG.

Those who wish—

(1) To Make an EDUCATIONAL PROVISION, or

(2) To IMPROVE their INCOME AFTER RETIREMENT, or

(3) To Make a good INVESTMENT by INSURANCE, or

(4) To effect an INSURANCE TO COVER THE RISKS OF THE VOYAGE HOME, should write to Mr. Henderson for his advice, which will be sent to all persons who state their occupation, are believed by him to apply in good faith and agree to his conditions.

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FOR SALE.

BABY'S PERAMBULATOR in good condition. Cost \$70.00. No reasonable offer refused.

Apply to—

"A. G."
Care of "Daily Press" Office.

[318]

FOR SALE.

STANLEY GIBBONS, SCOTT'S and YVERT ET TELLIER'S POSTAGE STAMP CATALOGUES for 1917.

GRACA & CO.

No. 4 WYNDHAM STREET,
Hongkong.

INTIMATIONS

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

RACE MEETING, 1917.

TO-DAY (MONDAY), TO-MORROW (TUESDAY), WEDNESDAY, AND SATURDAY (OFF-DAY).

FEBRUARY 26TH, 27TH, 28TH AND 3RD MARCH.

TICKETS of ADMISSION to the GRAND STAND and ENCLOSURE may be obtained from Messrs. KELLY & WALSH, LTD., or at the Gate. Price \$10 for the Meeting (excluding the Off-Day), or \$4 per day. Tickets for the Off-Day, \$3.

No one admitted without a Ticket, to be shown to the Ticket Inspector at the Gate.

T. F. HOUGH,
Clerk of the Course.

Hongkong, 23rd February, 1917. [330]

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

THE STEWARDS request the pleasure of the presence of the LADIES at the GRAND STAND and the ENCLOSURE during the Races.

A Stand and Enclosure will be reserved for Members and Members' Wives and Families. Tickets for which are being sent out with the Members' Tickets.

All Tickets must be produced to gain admission. Special accommodation will be reserved in recent years for Chinese Ladies and their Female attendants in the Stand erected on the plot of ground next to the Lusitano Club Stand.

T. F. HOUGH,
Clerk of the Course.

Hongkong, 23rd February, 1917. [331]

NOTICE.

PROPOS of the above, Members are hereby notified that although Membership of the Jockey Club entitles them to free admission to the Enclosure and Stands during the Race Meeting an opportunity is given to those who make a special contribution to the War Charities by also purchasing an admission Ticket at the Gate. A Book will be in care of the Gate Keeper in which Members are asked to record any such purchases.

T. F. HOUGH,
Clerk of the Course.

Hongkong, 23rd February, 1917. [332]

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

NO Servants will be allowed inside the ENCLOSURE of the Race Course during the Race Days WITHOUT TICKETS, which can be had on application to the Undersecretary. These Tickets are only available for Servants while in attendance on their employers or when on duty at the various Stands.

Any Chinese found loitering about with Servants' passes in their possession will forfeit them, and the holders thereof will be removed from the Enclosure.

T. F. HOUGH,
Clerk of the Course.

Hongkong, 23rd February, 1917. [333]

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

THE FOGCHOW CUP—1 1/2 MILES.

King Hal	132.5	145
Triumph	130	157
General Birdwood	123	152
Dixie	121	150
Matchbox	120	146
Crosby	119	147
Calow's Walt (late Earl)	118	151
Colleen	117	147
Northland	116	155
Australian Chief	115	153
Dalry Chief	114	144
Pingwa Chief	113	149
Adventure	110	150
Nyanza	109	140
Windsor Dahlia	108	159
Grand Dahlia	107	156
The Duke Dahlia	106	157
Sandy	105	157
The Gunner	100	146

G. K. HALL BRUTON,
Handicapper.T. F. HOUGH,
Clerk of the Course.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1917. [334]

HOSIERY COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

WANTED—A Sole Agent for the sale of Auto-Knitters suitable for the above industries.

Full particulars can be obtained from COX,
12 Nanking Road,
Shanghai.

[336]

WANTED.

A FLAT or UPPER FLOOR of about 10 Rooms situated between Ice House Street and Wyndham Street.

Apply to—

DR. KITASHIMA,
Care of M. B. K. Ltd.

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[12]

DEATH.
ANGKOR—At Rush Center, Kansas, U.S.A., on January 12th, RICHARD ANGKOR (late of Shanghai), aged 68 years.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 104, DES VOEUX ROAD, C. LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG 26TH FEBRUARY, 1917.

THE MAN-POWER QUESTION.

The statement which H.E. the GOVERNOR made to the Legislative Council on the subject of the Military Service Tribunal can hardly be said to have shed much light upon the questions upon which information is sought. The circumstances under which the Commission was appointed were well-known, and, though they may explain, they do not answer those questions. The men of military age asked either that they should be given a certificate to say that they were definitely forbidden to volunteer for service outside the Colony, or, in the alternative, that a responsible body should be set up to consider their applications for release. The Governor felt unable to accede to either request, adding that a tribunal such as that suggested must, in his opinion, be based upon compulsory service and receive the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with whom he promised to communicate on the subject. A few days later, however, in reference to strong representations by the unofficial members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, and the heads of some of the leading commercial firms, the Governor applied for and received, by cable, permission to appoint a Commission, though he admits that he would have preferred to await the reply of the Secretary of State to the proposals he had already submitted. It was, of course, only to be expected that as soon as the Government indicated that local defence had nothing to do with the retention in the Colony of men eligible for the Army there would be a general demand for an impartial consideration of applications for permission to volunteer for service with

the Colours. The mere mention of compulsion would naturally be resented by those who had all along been anxious to go to the front, while employers would desire to be exonerated from any suspicion that they placed their own convenience before the needs of the nation

in this time of stress. The matter appears to have been settled with such haste that the details were not carefully thought out. In the first instance, for example, the terms of reference to the Commission were so widely drawn that they included the consideration of cases from men in the employment of the Naval and Military Civil establishments. These have since been excepted. Similarly, the Proclamation was addressed to all "British male subjects" of military age, though, as a correspondent informed us the other day, the Commission are "unable to consider applications from persons of the Indian race." Again, the extension of the invitation to those "who wish to volunteer" has given rise to considerable confusion, because the word "wish" is capable of being interpreted either as an ardent longing or as an inclination. In the latter sense it would include, we imagine, every man who is physically fit. If this be the meaning intended, a clear statement should be made as to the precise terms upon which those with responsibilities are invited to offer their services. We are glad to observe that Civil Servants will suffer no loss of salary or seniority, and that many private firms are behaving with as much liberality as the Government. There still remains, however, the case of the man who cannot depend upon anything but the soldier's separation allowance granted by the Imperial Government. If such a case arises, His Excellency says, he will make recommendations to the Legislative Council for dealing with it. That, however, is too vague, and no married man would be justified, in the circumstances, in leaving his wife and family behind him until something more definite is promised. If it is really desired to sift the Colony right through in order to send to the front every man whose presence here is not absolutely indispensable to trade, we think that a tribunal to hear claims for exemption would be preferable, in many respects, to the present plan. It may, indeed, come to this even yet, if such be the recommendation made by the Governor to the Secretary of State—and it is reasonable to assume that it is, since conscription for purposes of local defence in Crown Colonies, which Mr. LONG announced the other day he was considering, would give little, if any, results in Hongkong. At the same time, it must not be forgotten that, with the staffs of commercial houses reduced to the barest minimum, it will not be possible to make any very considerable call upon the local auxiliary forces. To the layman it seems a questionable policy to send Home men experienced in the peculiarities of local commerce to be trained for the front, while fully-trained soldiers are brought out here. If our local men can be made fit to take their places in the firing-line it should not be difficult to make them serviceable for garrison duty, and we believe that, in the majority of cases, they would have been content with that. They wanted to be satisfied that they were playing a really useful part in the great struggle. No doubt they would need to be made more efficient than they are, but that should not be beyond the pale of possibility. If they were called up in batches, as was suggested, and put into barracks for a week at a time it would effect a very great improvement, as any volunteer knows who has attended a training camp, and some part of the regular forces might then have been set free for duty elsewhere. This will be impossible if men are sent away in any considerable numbers, unless the trade of the Colony is to be allowed to look after itself.

The current issue of the Government Gazette contains the Jurors' List for 1917.

The total output of the Kailan Mining Administration's mines for the week ending 10th February amounted to 43,508 tons and the sales to 38,972 tons.

H.E. the Governor has appointed Lieutenant Llewellyn Edwards, of the South African Artillery, to be his Aide-de-Camp, with the local rank of Captain.

It is notified in the Gazette that at the expiration of 12 months from February 23rd, the Luen Chong Mutual Fire and Marine Insurance Company, Limited, will, unless cause is shown to the contrary, be struck off the Register and the Company be dissolved.

The Gazette contains a proclamation of prohibition into the United Kingdom of automatic machines for the retail sale of any article, military rifles and carbines, miniature and cadet rifles and carbines, revolvers and pistols. The prohibition on the import of cotton hosiery is removed.

Under the auspices of the Hongkong Christian Union, united meetings for prayer will be conducted in the Helena May Institute as follows:—Monday, 5th March (Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald); Monday, 18th April (Mr. A. H. Harris); Monday, 7th May (The Bishop of Victoria); and Monday, 4th June (Rev. H. E. Anderson).

The following list of members of the General Committee of the Chinese Section of the Special Police Reserve is published in the Government Gazette for general information:—Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk, C.M.G., Hon. Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. Un Kam-wa, Mr. Wong Kwong-tin, Dr. J. M. Wong, Dr. G. H. Thomas, Mr. Chau Siu-kei, Mr. Tong Lai-chuen, Mr. Fung Ping-shan, and Mr. F. C. Mow Fung.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

KEEN LUKONG.

Early on Saturday morning, a *lukong* saw a man wrapping up a bundle in Li Shing Street. His suspicions were aroused and he approached the man, who attempted to run away, but was chased and caught by the constable. The bundle was then opened and found to contain four pieces of satin valued at \$43, one woollen blanket valued at \$2, and a singlet and a pair of trousers valued at \$1. It was subsequently discovered that the articles had been stolen from Nos. 6 and 8, Li Shing Street.

When brought before Mr. Melbourne the defendant pleaded guilty to house-breaking, and was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

SHIP'S BLANKETS STOLEN.

A Chinese was charged before Mr. Wood with the theft of two blankets from a steamer in port. It was stated that the defendant was the ship's doctor's "boy," and, having been given permission to go ashore, he attempted to take two of the ship's blankets with him.

The ship's steward said that he saw the defendant carrying a basket from the ship to the Dairy launch lying alongside. The steward followed him

THE WAR.

GERMAN REPLY TO CHINA'S PROTEST:

AN EXCUSE AND A PROMISE.

SEVEN DUTCH STEAMERS TORPEDOED:

INDIGNATION IN HOLLAND.

BRITISH PROGRESS ON WESTERN FRONT.

BRITISH ARMY ESTIMATES FOR 5,000,000 MEN.

Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH BRITISH AGENCY.)

SUPER-FRIGHTFULNESS.

SEVEN DUTCH STEAMERS TORPEDOED.

London, February 24th.

The Dutch steamers *Zaandijk*, *Noordwijk*, *Eemland*, *Gastland*, *Jacatra*, *Meando*, and *Bandoeng* have been torpedoed. Members of the crews landed presume that all are saved.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

London, February 24th.

The seven torpedoed Dutch steamers, four of which were bound for Holland with full cargoes, were attacked in the western approaches to the English Channel.

It is worthy of note that no instructions regarding routes were either asked for or given by the British Admiralty, the whole arrangements being in the hands of the Dutch authorities.

THE VALUE OF GERMAN PROMISES.

The Hague, February 24th.

An official report states that when unrestricted submarine war was proclaimed the Dutch Government protested and urged Germany to take care that no Dutch vessels en route to and from Dutch ports should fall victims. Germany replied that she was ready to comply, but it was impossible to guarantee absolute safety.

The seven vessels, availing themselves of a German offer of opportunity, left port together on the 22nd instant. They were all torpedoed without their papers being examined. Two hundred members of the crews have been landed; it is supposed that the remainder are safe.

THE STEAMERS' DESTINATIONS.

London, February 24th.

The torpedoed Dutch steamers total 23,000 tons. The *Meando* and *Bandoeng* were both of the Rotterdam Lloyd Line, bound from Batavia to Rotterdam. The *Jacatra*, also a Rotterdam Lloyd vessel, was bound from New York to Rotterdam. The *Gastland* and *Eemland*, both of the Royal Dutch Line, were bound from Amsterdam to Buenos Aires and New York respectively. The *Noordwijk* and *Zaandijk* were both of the Holland-America Line, and were bound from New York to Rotterdam and from Rotterdam to Philadelphia respectively.

DUTCH PRESS INDIGNANT.

London, February 24th.

The Dutch Press is most indignant at this German outrage, completely disregarding the rights of the Dutch people. It declares that no big nation which could thus treat Dutch honour can be longer maintained, and protests against this the deepest humiliation to which a neutral has yet been subjected.

RUNNING THE GAUNTLET.

FIRST AMERICAN LINER SUCCEEDS.

New York, February 24th.

A correspondent aboard the *Philadelphia*, which has arrived from Liverpool, states that it is the first American liner to run the gauntlet of submarine war. He says that the liner left Liverpool, in disregard of the German blockade orders, without the prescribed markings, and passed the danger zone, practically without altering her regular course. They met an abundance of British ships, but did not see any sign of pirates. Of 200 first class passengers, who booked, 61 sailed, and they were most cheerful despite the presence of reporters at the boat train seeking information regarding the identity of the passengers, obviously with a view to obituary notices. There were 66 second class passengers and 114 third class passengers, including the crew of the torpedoed *Houatonic*.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH BRITISH AGENCY.)

BRITISH FRONT.

ENEMY VACATES IMPORTANT POSITIONS.

London, February 24th.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, in a communiqué, says:—As a result of our unceasing pressure the enemy has vacated important positions on the Ancre.

We progressed considerably on a mile front south and south-east of Miraumont and entered Petit Miraumont.

We advanced on a front of a mile and a half south and south-east of Berre.

The enemy rushed a post west of Lens, but by a counter-attack we immediately recovered it.

FRENCH FRONT.

UNSUCCESSFUL SURPRISE ATTACK.

Paris, February 24th.

A communiqué says:—After a violent bombardment the Germans attempted an unsuccessful *coup de main* on our trenches near Wisembach.

A French airship bombarded busy workshops at Briey, returning safely.

Our aeroplanes dropped 400 kilograms of bombs on German bivouacs at Spin-court.

GERMAN REPORT.

London, February 24th.

A wireless German official report states:—We repulsed several British reconnoitring attacks on our Artois front. The British partly occupied an abandoned position in the Somme region.

French attacks to the south of Ripon failed.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH BRITISH AGENCY.)

FEEDING AMERICAN POOR. LEGISLATION REQUESTED.

New York, February 24th.

The Municipality have asked the State Legislature to legislate to enable the city to buy foodstuffs to sell to the poor at cost price.

ARMY ESTIMATES.

PROVISION FOR FIVE MILLION MEN.

London, February 24th.

The Army Estimates, issued to-day, provide for five million men, exclusive of those serving in India.

CHINA'S PROTEST AGAINST SUBMARINISM.

GERMANY'S REPLY.

Shanghai, February 24th.

The German reply to China's protest against unrestricted submarine warfare says that she has been driven to extreme measures, and promises to respect the lives of Chinese.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN.

HAS AN AUDIENCE WITH THE KING.

London, February 24th.

Sir Robert L. Borden, the Canadian Premier, has received an audience from the King.

BRITISH FRONT.

SIR P. SASSOON'S ACCOUNT.

Sir Philip Sassoon, M.P., private secretary to Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, addressing a large meeting at Folkestone last night, said they must not expect a constant succession of swift and spectacular advances. Advances were but the result of hard work and unremitting labour. Devotion and steady courage were making victory certain when it seemed that little was being done. Undoubtedly there was stubborn fighting still ahead of us. The enemy knew what he had to face, and the winter had given him time to reorganise his defences. But nothing that he could do could give him back the formidable works that were destroyed last summer.

Sir Philip proceeded to relate instances of heroism on the field, said on one occasion a Tank was in difficulties. Having proceeded solemnly into the German lines, well in advance of our own infantry, it broke down, and the enemy swarmed round it like Lilliputians round Gulliver. They bombed it from all sides, from the top and from underneath, for the Tank had decided to take its rest when halfway across a trench. The officer in charge thought of his men. He knew that our infantry were coming along, and if he could get his men back the Tank would be all right. The Germans could not walk off with it. So he decided to try to get back along the trench. He took the dangerous post himself and was shot, as also was another man with him. There was a non-commissioned officer in charge who, seeing that there was no chance that they would get back, decided to stay inside and stick it out. They shut the door and waited, while the Hun raged furiously outside, but the non-commissioned officer was not a man to give up easily. He settled down to the machinery, and suddenly the Tank came to life again. One might have thought that with his officer dead and an engine that did not know its own mind, the non-commissioned officer would have considered that it was his duty to take the Tank home if he could get it there. But he did not. Since the Tank could move he decided that it should move and go on. It did, performing useful work till at length it came to a final resting place by crashing through the roof of an enemy dugout. In due course our infantry came up, and the non-commissioned officer got back all right.

Sir Philip concluded: "Let us give our Army a chance to complete its task as it would like to see it completed. You can trust your Army, for after all it is a part and parcel of you, and you can trust your generals. For them the days of inexperience and over-confidence are gone. We have got the finest Army our race has yet produced, we have a Commander-in-Chief that our Army trusts, we have a Government that, we believe, is capable of giving vigour and decided action. Let us be patient and enduring a little longer, without pessimism or without over-confidence, but firm of purpose, trusting that in yet a little while we shall march through victory to the peace of the world."

BIG FIRE AT OSAKA.

The Osaka Medical College, the largest hospital in Central Japan, was completely destroyed by fire on the 19th inst. There were 470 patients in the hospital, but they are reported to have been safely removed. All the fire brigades in the city were called out and also the troops, but the fire spread rapidly to the Yamaoka Company's warehouses and the Nakano-shima Primary School. It also threatened the *Osaka Asahi's* new building, which was deluged with water. All the paper and other movables were saved, but there was no issue of the paper that evening.

The total damage done by the fire exceeds ¥1,500,000.

CHINA AND GERMANY.

HOW WILL THE PRESENT SITUATION END?

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Peking, February 15th.

The one-absorbing topic of the day is—Will China be forced to sever diplomatic relations with Germany by reason of the latter's ruthless submarine war against neutral shipping, and afterwards to declare war? At the moment the probabilities all point to this end. Germany shows no inclination to abandon a naval policy which seems the only one in the eyes of her leaders that will cripple Great Britain, and, consequently, upon Germany's head falls the onus of bringing into the war America, China and other neutral States.

These remarks are not at all previous. They indicate the only course that is open to China if this country adheres to her promise to associate herself with America in resisting German attacks upon neutral shipping and in resenting further violations of the principle of international law. There is every reason to believe that China will loyally abide by the promise that she has given to the United States. Her course of action will be strictly correct. There will not be any pyrotechnic displays of force against German military establishments. Nor will there be any seizure of property.

Should diplomatic relations be severed with Germany, as seems almost a certainty, the Chinese Government will naturally take into custody the interned German warships at Shanghai and other places, but that there will be any demonstration against the German troops forming the German Legation Guard in Peking is unthinkable, for the very good reason that by treaty Chinese troops cannot enter the Legation Quarter. What is most likely to happen is that the Power which takes charge of German interests in China will see to the disbanding of the Guard and the dismantling of the barracks. This will make it easier for the Germans here, and after all, it is an action that most foreigners would prefer.

Whether the German share of the Boxer indemnity will be confiscated or simply suspended will, perhaps, be a matter for discussion, but at any rate it is tolerably certain that all financial arrangements between the two countries in respect of loan payments, etc., will be discontinued. The German Bank would not then receive the deposits from the Chinese Government in respect of the Maritime Customs, the native Customs, and the Salt Revenue. The Germans would be deprived of the large sums they have been receiving from the Chinese Government and spending in war propaganda and in spreading sedition in India, but, apart from that, they would not be embarrassed. They would be free to carry on their businesses here as long as they were able to do so, for it is not likely that China would be more severe in this respect than was Japan.

Still, German prestige would receive a blow in China which would be peculiarly galling to the warriors of the Fatherland, while the business which is being pursued in this country and the good relations which have been bought so lavishly during the past two and a half years would both be wrecked irretrievably, or, at any rate, for years to come. That this fear is very active in the minds of the Germans in China is apparent from the great efforts which are being made to secure Parliamentary opposition to any declaration of war. Members of Parliament are being lavishly entertained—that is to say, those who are susceptible to German plausibilities—and Chinese military men who have come under German military influence and tradition are working hard to preserve neutrality. Such men as the former Minister to Germany, Ying Chang, who has tried to impose German military ideas upon the people of this country, and Liang Chi-chao are being banquipped by Admiral von Hinzte, while every night it is noticeable that the German Legation is ablaze with lights and numerous motors and rickshaws are standing outside, thus indicating the numerous entertainments that seem to be considered necessary at this critical period. It is doubtful, however, if it will have any result. There are substantial reasons why China should associate herself with the Entente as well as America. These have been stated in previous articles, and not the least is that China would raise herself among the nations and would place herself on the footing of an ally of Japan, a result which would have far-reaching consequences.

FORGED GODOWN RECEIPTS AT SHANGHAI.

CHARGES AGAINST TWO CHINESE.

At the Mixed Court Shanghai, on February 19th, two Chinese were charged with being concerned, with four others not in custody, in unlawfully aiding and abetting Chang Ru-mien and Yan Tse-yue, not in custody, in obtaining money by false pretences by issuing false and fraudulent godown orders and pledging them with the complainant, Tuck Chin-zang, for a loan of over Tls. 47,000. There was also a further charge of pledging forged warehouse receipts of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, with intent to defraud the complainant, as part consideration for a loan of over Tls. 47,000.

Mr. W. S. Fleming said that Chang Yumen, the chief offender, had not yet been arrested. He was up to December 19th of last year, engaged in business under the name of the Dah Fung Yung in an alleyway off Canton Road. In connection with his business he had a godown at 172 Chentu Road and the name of the godown business was the same as the Chinese characters for the foreign firm of Messrs. Fuhrmeister & Co., although the godown orders that he issued bore in foreign characters the name "Sing Kee." In addition, he was also engaged in the railway transportation business on the Shanghai-Nanking Railway, which business he conducted under the name of "Fuhrmeister & Co., Fo Ki." He had also, apparently, office room for a clerk at the goods warehouse and there he exhibited a signboard bearing that name. Mr. Allan's client was the man in charge of that. Chang Yu-mien carried on business on a large scale and carried out all arrangements with the banks and succeeded in borrowing money on warehouse receipts. For this purpose he pledged not only godown orders but also what appeared to be S.N.R. receipts. On or about December 19th last he absconded.

Investigations by the creditors revealed the fact that most of the S.N.R. receipts held by different firms from him were forgeries and that there was only a very small portion of the goods represented by the documents to be found in the godown in Chentu Road. Indeed, the investigations made by a receiver who had been appointed disclosed that there was not Tls. 20,000 worth of goods in the Chentu Road godown, whereas there were godown orders to the amount of something over Tls. 200,000. With regard to the railway transportation business there were forged railway receipts to the extent of Tls. 300,000 more, and from this the Court would see that these swindling operations had been carried on on a very large scale. After Chang Yu-mien absconded all of his employees disappeared and among them were the two defendants, who had since been arrested.

Evidence was given in support of counsel's statement and the case was adjourned.—N.C. Daily News.

LIVERPOOL OPIUM DENS BESIEGED.

OFFICERS ATTACKED BY DOGS AND PETTED WITH ROOTS.

Liverpool's Chinatown was in an uproar early on January 7th, when a force of plain-clothes policemen, under Detective-Inspector Burgess, made a big raid upon opium dens in Frederick-street, a thoroughfare in the inner south of the city, which is the centre of the Chinese quarters.

The raid resulted in a haul of 23 prisoners, and these were brought before the magistrate and remanded. The police were in strong force for the raid, and when the signal was given, they made short work of doors and bars. The attack took place when many of the inmates were in a dazed condition, and the attitude of the captives on realising their position was in some respects comical.

Some were inclined to mild obstructiveness, and others were so much under the influence of opium as to be oblivious of what was taking place. There were incidents which created much amusement. One house separated from the main centre of the police invasion was visited, and here the Chinese made it clear that they did not intend to surrender if they could get away.

THE CHINAMEN AT BAY.

Several clambered to the top of the building and got on to the roof, where they stood at bay and defied the police, hurling their boots and other missiles down at and about the officers. Other available missiles were used, the fighters retreating as the police advanced.

At one house a large and fierce retriever and other dogs were urged on to attack the police. The adroit Chinamen, leaping about from point to point like cats, succeeded in eluding the police for a time, but, with the aid of ladders and a fire escape, they were captured and soon joined their comrades at the Bridewell. The police took possession of a complete set of apparatus for the manufacture of opium and smoking material. This consisted of tin of material of a very costly character, pipes, packages of needles, and several pounds of mixture in a large tin ready for use.

The value of the apparatus and material seized is considerable.

TO-DAY'S RACE MEETING. SELECTIONS.

The Hongkong Jockey Club's Race Meeting opens to-day at noon, and gives fine weather, of which there appears every prospect, should prove highly successful. The racing promises to be unusually interesting, as the events are more "open" than they have been for some years. The proceedings will be enlivened by an attractive programme of music discoursed by the band of the 74th Punjab under Bandmaster Christians. A special dinner will be served on each of the three race days at the Hongkong Hotel Grill Room.

RACE.	SELECTION.
Wong-wei-chong Stakes, Mo. Maiden Stakes.	Mr. John Peel's Selected.
Victoria Stakes.	Triumphant Dablia.
Valley Stakes.	Sir Paul's Selected.
Foehow Cup.	Mr. Kadoorie's Selected.
Trial Plate.	Victory Dablia.
Garrison Cup.	Khakikini.
Professional Cup.	Cadown's Waif.
Jockey Club Stakes.	Sir Paul's Selected.
Racing Stakes.	or Northland.
	Mr. Johnstone's Mount.

A SUBALTERN'S IDEALS.

YOUNG SOLDIER'S LETTER TO HIS GOD-DAUGHTER.

The following letter written to his god-daughter aged eighteen months by a sub-altern aged twenty a few days before his death in action is printed in the *Spectator*—

Dear Phyllisane,—This is quite possibly the last letter I shall ever write you. You see we've got a battle on in this part of the world, and we're breaking hitherto unbroken ground somewhere between — and —. Of course, a battle doesn't mean I'm going to be hit—far from it—but there's always the possibility, and in the uncertainty of this war it's never wrong to take what precautions one can. Well, if I do go out, I won't have done very much in the way of godfatherly duties towards you, and in these days of discipline and war I dislike having a duty undone weighing on my mind. All the same, I have the fullest intention of living, and coming back to worry your mother by telling her she doesn't know how to bring you up.

Left to myself I should bring you up in the most Spartan manner. You would rise early, unlike your mother and father, in the last year of the age, go to bed between 4 and 5 a.m., and get up at 10 or 10.30. You would bathe in cold water, like me this time, for I haven't met warm water for an absolute age. Your meals would be simple and good fare, and your clothes cool and unpretentious. You would have to work pretty hard. You must be able to sing and play the piano. If possible cultivate a taste for drawing; it will lighten the sodium or many hours. Friends you absolutely must know; you must speak and write it as easily as you do English. Try and get your mother to send you to a family in France; it's very well worth it. Learn some other language, too.

You're going to be pretty, and you're sure to know it. A pretty face tho' is far from being everything. The face and appearance attract a man's attention, but it's the character that lies behind which he really falls in love. First of all, by all means, but don't flirt too much; it is hell for the man who loves you. If you can't love him, tell him so, straight, and don't keep him hanging on in uncertainty for a year or two; he'll probably end by hating you, and it's very bad for you. Don't make the man give in to you in everything; he will if you want him to, as every woman is an adept at making man obey her. Don't monopolise every man you meet, or other women will hate you, and meet at any rate who are men, are going to be very few and far between after this war.

Finally, stick to the man you choose, tho' thick and thin. If his luck is out, cheer him up, and don't grouse about it. Don't keep too sharp or too gentle a tongue in your head. Too much butter is worse even than perpetual biting sarcasm. . . . Here's a golden rule out of Shakespeare: "This above all—this thine own self be true"—which means, what every child is told, "Don't do or say anything you wouldn't like your mother to know." Your mother's very broad-minded, and there's no need to be frightened of her; you could not have a better, and if you do what she thinks best you'll never go very far wrong. From my own deeds and misdeeds, I know what is right and what is wrong, and I'm sort of responsible for you, Phyllisane. . . . Don't be skin-deep; nobody'll care two pence for you if you are; it's the worst form of humbug. Set yourself an ideal, and try to live up to it.

You can have no higher ideal than to try and copy the lives of some of the men out here. They are separated from all they love best. They are in danger every minute of their lives; their outlook on the near future is danger and more danger. They've got the worry of thinking what will happen to their wives and children at home if they're not knocked out. Their comforts are few and very poor, their discomforts intense; their surroundings squalid everywhere; an indescribable state of ruin and filth and yet they're always cheerful; there is hardly a grumble from morning to night, and each man does his duty however unpleasant, not to save his own skin, but to benefit his own people, his King, and his country.

Take one of these for example, and live up to him. Don't think from this I want you to be a prig. Far from it, it's just the reverse I want. My idea for you is that you should become the kindest and most lovable of women, and you'll have to be very kind and very lovable before I grant you the highest rank.

CUTLER, PALMER & CO'S
**NAPIER
JOHNSTONE'S**

Known as the

**"OLD
SQUARE"**

WHISKY.

ESTABLISHED

1745.

SOLE AGENTS IN HONGKONG
AND SOUTH CHINA:LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.,
and from ALL WINE MERCHANTS.**HAVE YOU A
BAD LEG**

with wounds that discharge or otherwise, perhaps surrounded with inflammation and swollen, that when you press your finger on the inflamed part it leaves the impression? If so, under the skin you have poison, which defies all the remedies you have tried. Perhaps your knees are swollen, the joints being affected, the same with the ankles, round which the skin may be discoloured, or there may be wounds; this disease, if allowed to continue, will deprive you of the power to walk. You may have attended various hospitals, and been told your case is hopeless, or advised to submit to amputation; but do not try the Grasshopper Treatment, which is a sure and certain restorer in cases of Bad Legs, Ulcerated Joints, Housemaid's Knee, Poisoned Hands, Abscesses, Glandular Swellings, Carbuncles, Bunions, Snake, Insect and Dog Bites and all Skin Diseases. Send at once to the Drug Store for a box of

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Prepared by ALBERT, Albert House, Farquhar Street, London, England. Price in England 1/12 and 2/6 per box.
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DAI NIPPON

BREWERY CO., TOKYO.

SOLE AGENTS:

MITSU BUSSAN KAISHA,

TEL. No. 230 or 155.

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THE WAR.

The following cables were received on Saturday night and issued in our Early Morning Extra yesterday.

Naval Activities.**LATEST CABLES.**

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE "ATHOS" TORPEDOED.

1,450 OF THOSE ON BOARD SAVED.

PARIS, February 23rd. It is officially announced that the Messageries Maritimes mail-boat *Athos*, from China, transporting Senegalese tirailleurs and Colonial labourers to France has been torpedoed in the Mediterranean.

Two escorting destroyers, aided by a gunboat which came up, saved 1,450 of those on board.

AMERICAN MISSIONARY FROM SOOCHOW DROWNED.

WASHINGTON, February 24th. The American Consul at Malta telegraphs that Robert Haden, an American Missionary from Soochow, was drowned when the *Athos* was torpedoed in the Mediterranean on the 17th inst. The ship was torpedoed without warning when 210 miles east of Malta.

Mr. Haden was drowned when returning to the ship to assist others.

The submarine showed neither flag nor number.

The *Athos*, which was well-known in Hongkong, was one of the newest and best boats of the Messageries Maritimes fleet. She was a twin-screw steamer of 12,000 tons gross, built in 1914. Her dimensions were:—Length, 508 ft.; breadth, 61 ft.; depth, 45 ft.

ITALIAN TRANSPORT TORPEDOED.

SOME OF THE TROOPS SAVED.

ROME, February 24th. The transport *Minas*, journeying to Salonika, was torpedoed on the 15th inst., when 160 miles west of Cape Matapan. Part of the troops aboard were saved.

DELIBERATE BRUTALITY.

ANOTHER CASE TO BE RECORDED.

LONDON, February 23rd. One of the worst instances of deliberate submarine brutality recorded up to the present has been revealed in the case of a Lowestoft fishing smack which was stopped on the 13th inst., 48 miles from land. The skipper and crew were ordered to board the submarine. A German sailor placed bombs aboard the smack after collecting all the provisions.

The crew of the smack were then ordered into a boat and told to "pull away". They were picked up sixty-eight hours later after being exposed to bitter cold and heavy weather, without food or water, the whole time.

CREW OF "WORCESTERSHIRE" LANDED.

LONDON, February 22nd. The passengers and crew of the *Worcestershire* were landed on the 18th inst.

WAR ON THE SUBMARINES.

SUCCESS OF BRITISH MEASURES.

LONDON, February 22nd. In the House of Commons, Sir Edward Carson, besides giving instances of warships ramming submarines, mentioned the engagement of two British patrol boats and two submarines. One of the submarines was apparently sunk. The fate of the second was doubtful. Another patrol boat reported that it hit the conning tower of a submarine with its fifth shot and it is believed the submarine was sunk. A seaplane also bombed a submarine in the act of diving.

SUBMARINE CREW STRANDED IN HOLLAND.

AMSTERDAM, February 23rd. A German submarine crew of 14 are stranded on the island of Walcheren between Domburg and West Kapelle. The military are guarding them.

SWEDEN FEELS THE PINCH.

RESULT CAUSES "INTENSE INDIGNATION."

LONDON, February 23rd. There is intense indignation in Sweden over the torpedoing of the Swedish sailor *Hugo Hamilton*. The cargo of four thousand tons of nitrate of soda was urgently needed by Swedish farmers. The crew of thirty-four are missing. The pro-German *Storn-Bladet* says apology and compensation are insufficient. Sweden must demand from Germany substitutes equally important to agriculture.

THE SUBMARINE CAMPAIGN.

FURTHER DETAILS.

LONDON, February 23rd. Nine of the crew of the sunken Cardiff steamer, *Rosalie*, have been saved, and the remaining twenty-one, including all officers, have been lost.

The captain, chief engineer and two of the crew of the sunken Cardiff steamer, *Carthage*, have been made prisoners and the remainder landed.

Four of the crew of the sunken London steamer *Sohna Miles* were injured and two killed. They have been landed. Fourteen others are missing.

AMERICANS ON TORPEDOED STEAMER.

LONDON, February 23rd. The American Consul at Barcelona reports that there were five Americans on board the torpedoed Swedish steamer *Skogland*.

AUSTRIAN SUBMARINE DEFIED.

MADRID, February 23rd. An Austrian submarine held up the Spanish steamer *Victoria Eugenia* from Buenos Aires, off Tarragona, and demanded the surrender of eight Britons. The Captain pointed out that the ship was in territorial waters and said he would sink the vessel before giving up. The submarine then withdrew. The steamer was given an ovation on arrival at Barcelona.

A PROTEST FROM SWEDEN.

STOCKHOLM, February 23rd. The Swedish Government has protested to Germany against the torpedoing of the Swedish steamer *Vaering* and the sailing ship *Hugo Hamilton*.

A GERMAN OFFER.

LONDON, February 23rd. It is announced that Germany has offered Spain regular passenger communication with Falmouth, similar to the offer made to the United States.

BLUE FUNNEL BOAT SUNK.

The British vessel *Perseus* has been sunk. The *Perseus*, which was 6,728 tons, was built in 1908 by Messrs. Workman, Clark & Co., of Belfast, for the Ocean Steamship Company, of which Messrs. Alfred Holt & Co. are managers. Her dimensions were:—Length, 443 feet; breadth, 62 feet 6 inches; depth, 32 feet. Her port of registry was Liverpool.

News of the sinking of the *Perseus*, which was on her way to the Far East, was received in the Colony several days ago. It is reported that the officers and crew were saved.

FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL RAID.

LONDONERS WREST THE RECORD FROM THE CANADIANS.

LONDON, February 23rd. Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters says a London regiment has wrested from the Canadians the record of carrying out the most successful raid. One hundred and twenty prisoners, all Prussians, were brought back, and, at the least, 300 of the enemy were killed. Five machine-guns were captured.

The assault was made half an hour before sunset on the 20th inst. Two flanking parties met 500 yards to the rear of the German trenches while their comrades in the centre were still bombing and bayoneting the trapped Prussians. Many knew the German language and confused the enemy by shouting misleading orders.

The Londoners remained in the trenches for an hour, thoroughly destroying them. The retaliatory German artillery fire was wild and ineffective.

A SERIES OF SUCCESSES.

SIR DOUGLAS HAIG'S REPORT.

LONDON, February 23rd. Sir Douglas Haig reports that we have improved our position to the north of Gueudecourt, capturing a portion of a trench and taking 30 prisoners.

We occupied a post to the south of Petit Marmont.

A raid was carried out to the south-east of Souchez during which dug-outs were destroyed and a number of the enemy killed.

We repulsed raids to the south of Armentiers. In the neighbourhood of Ploegsteert wood a small number of the enemy reached our trenches but they were either killed or taken prisoners.

ENEMY ATTACKS REPULSED.

LONDON, February 23rd. A French communiqué states:—There has been artillery firing in Alsace and Lorraine. The French repulsed enemy coups de main in the Soisson and Bernvaux areas.

MORE GERMAN LYING EXPOSED.

THE NEW ZEALANDERS' RAID.

LONDON, February 23rd. Reuter's correspondent at Headquarters says that yesterday's German wireless message concerning 200 British dead is a notable instance of hardy lying.

The New Zealanders carried out the raid and remained for upwards of half an hour in the German support trenches, doing great destruction and capturing 44 prisoners. They found the German trenches strewn with dead from our bombardment. If the Germans really counted 200 corpses seven eighths of them were German.

THE NEAR EAST.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

PROGRESS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

LONDON, February 23rd. An official message from Mesopotamia says we have secured and consolidated two lines of trenches at the southern end of the Samarra position. Fighting continues. The Tigris has risen to flood level, hindering operations.

Italian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

LONDON, February 23rd.

An Italian official communiqué reports:—

The enemy seized an outpost at Coldi-lana. We counter-attacked and drove him out. We took some prisoners.

Our airships dropped a ton of high explosives, with visible success, on the aviation ground at Prosecco.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

DRASTIC RESTRICTION OF IMPORTS.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S PROGRAMME.

LONDON, February 23rd.

The House of Commons was crowded when Mr. Lloyd George made his promised statement regarding the further restriction of imports and the encouragement of greater food production in the United Kingdom. Among the numerous distinguished visitors present were the Premiers of Canada and New Zealand, Sir Robert Borden, and Mr. William F. Massey.

Mr. Lloyd George, who was loudly cheered upon rising to address the House, said the ultimate success of the Allied cause depended upon the solution of the tonnage difficulties. Over a million tons of our shipping was allocated to France alone, a considerable amount to Russia and Italy, and there was also a considerable amount sunk.

THE SHORTAGE OF TONNAGE.

There was not only a shortage for the general needs of the nation but for military purposes. The nation must, therefore, be prepared for drastic sacrifices to cope with submarineism, otherwise disaster confronted us. The tonnage problem must be tackled ruthlessly and promptly by naval measures, by the building of new ships and by dispensing with unnecessary imports and increasing home food production.

The shipyards must be used to the utmost for the construction of anti-submarine craft as well as merchantmen.

IMPORT OF TIMBER.

In regard to the imports, the problem of timber, of which 6,400,000 tons were imported last year, must be dealt with in order to save tonnage. The best methods of economizing timber were being investigated. The French Government had given two forests for the use of our army in France and he was afraid he must ask for more. The supply of home timber must also be increased. He thought he could get sufficient labour to fell enough trees for all purposes.

We were importing millions of tons of iron ore while there was plenty of low grade ore in Great Britain. If we could augment the supply of labour we could enormously increase the output. A large saving of tonnage therefrom, however, would not come, unfortunately, until late in the year.

FOOD STOCKS LAMENTABLY LOW.

Our food stocks were at present lamentably low, not owing to submarines but to bad harvests. For the safety of the nation we must make every effort to increase the production in 1917. There were a few weeks in which to sow Spring wheat, oats and barley, and in order to induce farmers to plough up pasture land immediately he proposed to guarantee the farmer a minimum price for a definite period, while a minimum wage would be fixed for the agricultural labourer. Rent-raising would be prohibited and the Board of Agriculture would enforce cultivation. The guaranteed minimum price of wheat per quarter would be 60/- for 1917, 55/- for the next two years, and 45/- for the following three years.

DRASTIC REDUCTIONS.

Paper imports would be reduced to 500,000 tons, which is half the present allowance. All essential foodstuffs would be put on the free list, but apples, tomatoes and certain raw fruits would be prohibited; oranges, bananas, grapes, almonds and nuts would be reduced to twenty-five per cent. of the quantity imported during 1915, and canned salmon would be reduced by fifty per cent. Mineral water would be prohibited, and cocoa and coffee would be temporarily stopped, as we had large stocks of these two commodities. The importation of foreign tea would be prohibited, while even the importation of Indian tea would be reduced to a certain extent. This would save 500,000 tons.

He regretted exceedingly the stoppage of certain luxuries from France and Italy. The output of beer would be reduced to ten million barrels, saving 500,000 tons in imports for its manufacture. Spirits would be correspondingly reduced and restrictions would be imposed immediately. Steps would be taken to prevent speculative buying and, if necessary, the Food Controller would control commodities. If this programme were carried out and those able to help in production did help, there was not the slightest doubt that we could face the worst the enemy could do. (Loud cheers.)

RUM, WINES AND SPIRITS.

Mr. Walter Long, on behalf of the Premier, announced in the House of Commons that the importation of rum would be stopped and that the importation of wines and spirits would be reduced seventy-five per cent. compared with 1915.

"NO TIME MUST BE LOST."

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES GRAVE BEYOND WORDS.

LONDON, February 23rd.

Mr. Lloyd George, in a letter, appeals to the Free Churches to co-operate in the campaign of economy and increased food production. He urges the formation of local groups to cultivate land co-operatively and concludes with the words "our responsibilities are grave beyond words; no time must be lost."

THE DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE HOME RULE.

NATIONALISTS THREATEN TO FORCE GENERAL ELECTION.

LONDON, February 22nd.

The Nationalists attach the utmost importance to the debate on the resolution demanding immediate Home Rule and declare that the refusal of the demand will make an election inevitable.

BANISHMENT FOR THOSE ARRESTED.

LONDON, February 23rd.

An official statement has been issued in Dublin that those arrested yesterday under the Defence of the Realm Act have been prohibited from residing in Ireland.

GERMAN FIRMS IN THE EAST.

MANCHESTER MERCHANTS SENTENCED FOR TRADING.

LONDON, February 23rd.

Harry Broughton, the principal of the Stonebridge Cloth Manufacturing Company, has been sentenced, at Manchester, to a year's imprisonment, and his son to a fine of £50 sterling, for trading with German firms in the East.

CANADA'S PART.

INTERVIEW WITH SIR ROBERT BORDEN.

LONDON, February 23rd.

Sir Robert Borden, interviewed by Reuters, said 400,000 men had enlisted in Canada for overseas service of whom 300,000 had already crossed the Atlantic. Further recruiting was being considered.

Over 300,000 men and women were working in munition factories in Canada. Sixty millions sterling had been raised in Canada since the war in addition to the assistance rendered Great Britain to the extent of fifty millions for munitions. Canadians were convinced that there would be no abiding peace except through the victory of the Allies.

SAFEGUARDING THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

NO TRAVELLING IN THE WAR ZONE.

OTTAWA, February 23rd.

An Order-in-Council forbids women and children to embark from Canadian ports for destinations in the war zone.

THE WAR CONFERENCE.

ARRIVAL OF OVERSEAS PREMIERS.

LONDON, February 22nd.

The Canadian Premier, Sir Robert Borden, on his journey to England, was accompanied by Mr. Robert Rogers, the Canadian Minister of Public Works, Mr. J. D. Hazen, the Canadian Minister of Marine and Fisheries and of the Naval Service, and by the Premier of Newfoundland, Sir Edward P. Morris. All will participate in the War Conference.

STRIKES AND RIOTS IN GERMANY.

PROCESSIONS HEADED BY THE RED FLAG.

AMSTERDAM, February 23rd.

Strikes in Germany are spreading. Hundreds of women and children, headed by the red flag, are clamouring for bread. Shops were looted in Aix-la-Chapelle.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

LONDON, February 22nd.

The Earl of Ronaldshay had an audience of the King and kissed hands upon his appointment as Governor of Bengal. His Majesty invested him with the insignia of the Grand Cross of the Indian Empire. Subsequently the King and Queen received the Countess of Ronaldshay.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, February 22nd.

Messrs. Montagu's report on the silver market states there has been a certain amount of general competition while offerings have increased owing to the set back in price increasing profit taking and freer sales; also the Shanghai Exchange showed weakness and a little selling occurred and consequently the price declined.

LONDON, February 22nd. Silver is 37 9/16. There is no demand and the market is quiet.

BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN SPANISH SHIPYARD.

GERMAN AGENTS SUSPECTED.

MADRID, February 23rd.

Two bombs exploded in a shipyard in Bilbao. German agents are suspected.

EARLIER CABLES.**GERMAN INTRIGUE IN SPAIN.**

GERMAN CONSUL ARRESTED.

MADRID, February 23rd.

Herr Meyer, the German Consul at Cartagena, has been arrested in connection with the discovery of the submarine base. Another German, named Kaller, has also been arrested.

The Madrid Police are actively searching for another German believed to be the ring leader.

The authorities are determined to probe the affair to the bottom to satisfy public opinion, which demands the most vigorous suppression of German intrigues.

MADRID, February 23rd. There is an explosion of wrath in Spain at the discovery of buoys at Cartagena, containing material for German plots in Spain. It appears that coast guards, close to the harbour, two buoys connected by chains, to which were attached thirty water-tight cases, one full of explosives and the others containing correspondence and instructions for Germans occupying official positions in Spain. The submarine which placed the buoys also secretly landed several men instructed in the use of explosives.

Besides Muller and Kaller, a man styling himself an American named Harry Wood has been arrested. The Government is acting with the utmost vigour. Senor Romanos and Senor Gimeno are conferring separately with the American, French and German Ambassadors, and also with Mr. Gerard.

A BRIBE OFFERED AND REJECTED.

GERMANY "SURPRISED."

MADRID, February 23rd.

A telegram from Berlin states that Germany is surprised at the Spanish reply to the submarine Note. Germany offered to provide Spain with coal, to buy a portion of the orange harvest, and to transfer some of the German ships detained in Spanish ports to compensate for the damage done by submarines.

GERMAN PLOTS IN AMERICA.

SCORE OF FIRES AND A FOOD RIOT.

NEW YORK, February 23rd.

One person was killed and fourteen injured in a food riot at Philadelphia. Two thousand five hundred people took part in the riot, which, it is believed, was instigated by German agents.

There has been a mysterious outbreak of a score of incendiary fires at New Britain, Connecticut, where there are many munition works. Martial law has been enforced.

A plot has been discovered to blow up a munition factory at Youngstown, Ohio, and two Turks carrying dynamite have been arrested.

LATER. The authorities have evidence that the food demonstrations were instigated by Germans with the object of securing an embargo on food exports. It is stated that four thousand sterling was paid to the recent deputation to the Mayor.

THE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.

A FORECAST.

LONDON, February 23rd.

The Times says that today Mr. Lloyd George will announce the restrictions on imports, which in some cases amount to twenty-five per cent. including fruit, mineral ores, timber, paper, paper-making materials, silk goods and dress materials.

The Premier will, it is stated, also announce bold measures to encourage food production, including the guarantee of a minimum price to farmers for wheat, oats and barley for not more than five years, and not less than three in increase in farm labourers' wages, and further restrictions in the use of grain for the manufacture of alcohol.

THE ARRESTS IN IRELAND.

LONDON, February 23rd. It is announced that the Irish arrests are mostly of Volunteer leaders. They include the author, Darrel Figgis, Capt. Liam Molloy, Councilor S. T. Kelly, the editor of the *Catholic League Bulletin*, J. J. O'Kelly, and also a number of Gaelic officials.

OBITUARY.

MR. JONATHAN SAMUEL M.P.

LONDON, February 23rd. The death is announced of Mr. Jonathan Samuel, Liberal M.P. for Stockton-on-Tees, of which town he was Mayor on three occasions.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

TODAY

11.45 A.M.—Hongkong Races—1st Day.

TO-MORROW

11.45 A.M.—Hongkong Races—2nd Day.

Wednesday, 28th Feb.—

11.45 A.M.—Hongkong Races—3rd Day.

Saturday, 3rd March.—

2 P.M.—Hongkong Races—4th Day.

DIRECT NEWS FROM GERMANY.

THE FOOD POSITION.
RICH v. POOR.

The following communication appeared in the *Times* on January 18th, and is one of the first direct unmeasured communications that have reached our country for some months. It was contributed by the "Neutral" whose observations have proved so accurate in the past.

Cologne, January 18th.

In letters which ought to have reached you one at the end of November and another about Christmas, I explained that since the period of Mr. Curtin's investigation of the economic situation in Germany matters have been getting steadily worse.

It would be no exaggeration to say that one can now see fresh deterioration every week, and the pace downhill is getting faster. Both the German people and the German Army on the Western Front have in the last few months experienced very considerable changes for the worse. I have always, as you know, warned the Allies against over-optimism regarding the economic situation in Germany, but there really does not seem to be much need of warning now.

This is the first time I have been in Cologne since September, 1914. What a change! I have come here from a leisurely tour of more than a dozen leading German centres. It is not only my impression, but that of German friends who are in a position to know the facts as to the food supply, that Germany is faced by the prospect of being unable to continue the struggle, unless a miracle supervenes here, she really raids Denmark or Holland, or both, for meat, corn, butter and oil.

It is rather difficult to give a clear picture of the German situation in letters that must necessarily be as short as possible owing to the great difficulty of getting any written matter out of the country, even by the means as my disbeliever, let me say, first, that throughout my tour I have not heard of any actual starvation. Every body, at any rate every baby under two years of age, gets sufficient milk, except in the principal manitons areas where so much of the milk from the surrounding districts is converted into glycerine. Invalids are suffering, but those who have money can, on medical certificates, obtain permission to go to Switzerland, Holland, or Denmark for fixed periods. But the really fixed suffer at all. Moving about, and living in the circles to which you know that I belong, I have been subjected only to the great annoyances of the ticket system. As much as possible I stay with friends, and with rare exceptions I have always found them well supplied. This, of course, applies especially to people in the country, who, whatever the regulations may be, draw upon their own live stock, poultry and game.

The position of the general population, especially in the towns large and small, is deplorable. There is great deal of complaining, and of late the disputes between the various authorities, and between the authorities of the various States, have increased in intensity. There is also great bitterness as between the country and the towns, and in any particular town I have been told that some other town is flowing with milk and honey, although I have been about Germany enough to know better. The complaints against the country people are doubtless justified by the greater possibilities of hoarding food, the possession of which they do not disclose.

Yet it would be a great mistake to exaggerate the practical effect of the prevailing distress. It seems to me that nothing is more striking than the way in which the docility of all the German tribes, Prussians, Saxons, Bavarians, and the rest, positively increases with the decrease of strength caused by the lack of food.

I spent Christmas Day at a house, where there was a large family gathering. My host, who certainly owned more than a million of marks (£20,000) before the war, has multiplied his fortune by five during the war. Twelve of us sat down to dinner. It consisted of smoked salmon, smoked eels, a good meat soup, venison, two geese, Gruyere cheese, and any amount of sweets. We drank Burgundy that had been pillaged from Belgium, sparkling Moselle, French brandy, and Swedish pilsner. We dined at 6.30 and rose at 11. The geese cannot have cost less than 6s. 6d. (about 6s. 6d.) per lb. I have myself paid 10s. (10s.) per lb. for smoked geese, which is dearest.

Now I know that less than five miles from where we were sitting people were scrambling for something called potatoes. Next morning as I drove through the snow to the railway station and saw lines of people waiting for their daily dose of potatoes, soup, or bread my guilty feelings were not evanish.

I do not see how Germany is to continue indefinitely without securing leather. As you will know, boots have now been put on the card system. I was in Berlin on what was apparently the last day of sale without cards. People crowded the fronts of the shops and had to be dispersed by the police when the shops closed. Outside one of the shops in the Leipziger Strasse there was a great light. Everybody wanted to get boots, no matter of what kind or size, and men even bought women's boots, the idea being that it would be possible to change them later. It was, however, promptly announced that in future boots would not be changed without a special permit. Velvet and silk can still be bought without cards. Commodities that are thus "free" are shown in the shop windows with a mark "Ohne" (without), which means that they can be had without tickets.

The potato rations vary in different places, and in many the ration is well under 1lb. per head per week, and often mixed with turnip. The bread, which improved considerably some time ago, is now generally as bad as ever, the old soda potato bread, which, together with

(Continued at foot of next column.)

PRUSSIAN WAR FINANCE.

THE BLOCKADE TELLING

The 1917 Budget for Prussia was submitted to the Prussian Diet on January 16th. Receipts and expenditure balance at 5,160,785,791 marks (£258,033,298). Authority for the issue of Exchequer Bonds is extended from 3,000 million marks (£150,000,000) last year to 5,000 millions (£250,000,000).

This year's Budget, in contradistinction, it is stated, to those of the last two years, is based on actual receipts and expenditure. The railways show a small surplus, of which 1,200,000 marks (£60,000) are made over to the compensation fund. State assistance for war relief communities again amounts to 200,000,000 marks (£10,000,000). The surplus of direct taxation in 1916, which is 60,000,000 (£3,000,000) over the estimate, will serve to cover the deficiency of 1914. Good results from direct taxation are also expected in the present year. War relief to officials with incomes not more than 4,900 marks (£240) per annum will be increased from February 1st.

The text of the Budget contains no unnecessary foreign words. Dr. Lentze, the Minister of Finance, in introducing the Budget, said: "Last year and the year before we entertained the hope that we were dealing with the last war Budget. This year we should not like to abandon this hope completely, although the German people offer a few days ago was most sharply refused by our enemies with a declaration of war to the death."

After abusing the Entente, and saying that all the threats of their enemies would fail before the bravery of the German forces by sea and land, the Minister continued:

"The war has had serious influences on our Budget and demands special efforts. Though receipts and expenditure balance in the estimates, this is so in appearance only, because many important questions for lack of means have had to be postponed till later. What is more, after the war we must continue to conduct State economy on more stringent and narrower lines than hitherto. The principal thing to-day is to win the war."

"The blockade is making itself felt more and more, and it cannot be denied that it lies heavily on the country, and yet it must be put up with. The interference with the private affairs of civilians and the difficulties connected with the supply of foodstuffs and the high cost of living are certainly very great. Many a man with a small income, who perhaps has a large family has certainly great and grievous hardships, but what does the warfare of single individuals matter as compared with the future of our whole people? Our enemies make a big mistake if they believe that they could conquer us by the blockade. In spite of the blockade, nobody is starving in Germany. This has been well provided against. In the enemy's country in many respects, prices are higher and distress is greater than with us. There are still difficult months before us, immensely heavy fighting has still to be gone through, much sacrifice of blood and treasure has still to be made. We do not deny it, but our confidence and our certainty remain firm. 'From highest to lowest we are all convinced that we cannot be defeated and that victory will be with us. Our true God who has guided Prussia and the young Empire with to such a happy end will also be with us in the future if only we do our duty, and this we shall do with willing heart.'"

Reuter.

The acorn coffee and saccharine, produces internal irritation and chronic indigestion.

When I last wrote I was able to get chocolate quite easily, most of it Dutch or Swiss, and also cocoa. This morning I spent half an hour in trying to buy chocolate in Cologne, but could only find an ornamental composition, which was called chocolate, and worked out at 20M. (21) per pound. We had fish for dinner last night in the hotel, and oysters from Ostend are sold pretty freely.

My journey occupied much longer than I expected because the whole German railway system is disorganised by the shortage of coal. This is partly due to labour difficulties—in spite of the release of labour by the military authorities for work in the mines—partly to the vast increase in the amount of coal needed by munitions work, and partly to the increasing quantity sent to Switzerland in exchange for food. Many trains have been stopped altogether, and ordinary travelling is of course rendered more difficult by the priority given to troops and transport trains. Women are acting as porters and as train attendants—the latter dressed in neat knickerbockers. In Berlin they have rather quaintly divided skirts. The public have long become accustomed to carrying their own luggage.

Nevertheless at several places on my journey I saw new railway lines under construction and much other public work going on as usual. At one place I drove along a road bordering a considerable stretch of new railway line, and noticed that all the workers were Russian and French prisoners guarded by very old soldiers and very young ones, the latter not being allowed to go to the front at as early an age as was formerly the case. It is not true, as stated in the English and French newspapers, which are sold here as freely as heretofore, that the diet of the armies remains as it was. There are bitter grumblings from the soldiers back from the eastern front, and the soldiers returning from the Somme and Verdun (known as "the grave") complain of increasing diminution in the mixture of butter and margarine served out to them. These poor fellows are no longer the heroes that they were last year.

"Kein Platz" (No room), I heard an elderly man who was acting as train conductor bark out gruffly to two tired soldiers heavily laden with all their trench equipment, who had obviously arrived in Berlin on leave.

The military bands are everywhere as usual, but there is no military spirit left in any of the cities I have visited. The German people generally are sick of the war. Their only comfort is their belief that food prices and scarcity in Russia, England, and France are worse than in Germany.

FIGHTS AT SEA AND THEIR REWARDS.

RECORD OF A BUSY YEAR IN THE PRIZE COURT.

The British Prize Court—the Court under the Presidency of Sir Samuel Evans, which distributes among the officers and crews of such of H.M. ships of war as are actually present at the destruction of enemy armed ships bounty calculated at the rate of £5 for each person on board the enemy ships at the beginning of the engagement, has just concluded a very busy year.

Between March 27th and December 31st claims were heard for the destruction of 23 enemy ships, and awards totalling £40,935 were made. In this period 8,187 officers and men were aboard the enemy ships sent to the bottom.

While it does not by any means exhaust the casualties suffered by the enemy at the instance of the Navy, the following list shows some of the more important losses which have been dealt with by the Court:—

GERMAN SHIPS SUNK.	
Four German warships sunk in Falkland Islands battle by British warships	£12,180
Three Turkish war vessels in Sea of Marmara and Dardanelles by E11	4,330
Turkish battleship in Dardanelles by B11	3,500
German cruiser <i>Prinz Adalbert</i> sunk in Baltic by E3	3,000
German auxiliary cruiser <i>Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse</i> sunk by H.M.S. <i>Haghyer</i> in the Atlantic	2,580
German armed cruiser <i>Cap Trafalgar</i> sunk off East Coast America by British auxiliary ship <i>Carmania</i>	2,115
German cruiser <i>Enden</i> sunk by H.M. cruiser <i>Sydney</i> on North Keeling Island	1,985
German armed vessel <i>Grieta</i> sunk by H.M.S. <i>Alcantara</i> and <i>Aden</i> in North Sea	1,605
German cruiser <i>Undine</i> sunk in Baltic by E19	1,410
Four German torpedo-boats sunk by British torpedo-boats <i>Lance, Legion, Loyal, and Lennax</i> and cruiser <i>Undaunted</i> in North Sea	1,400
German cruiser <i>Hela</i> sunk in North Sea by E9	1,050
German fleet auxiliary ship in North Sea by E5	1,000
H.M.S. <i>Yarnmouth</i> for rescuing Greek steamer <i>Pontoporus</i> from German cruiser <i>Enden</i> (salvage awarded), £7,333	

STORIES OF THRILLING FIGHTS.

Many thrilling fights have been described to the Court, perhaps the most daring of them all being the destruction in the Sea of Marmara and the Dardanelles of three Turkish warships by the submarine E11, after this vessel had negotiated the minefields. The enemy lost 868 men, and £4,320 was awarded to Commander Nameth (who, it will be recalled, was also awarded the Victoria Cross) and his crew.

Another story of a gallant fight was that recording the sinking of the German armed auxiliary *Greif* by the patrol *Alcantara*, which was herself torpedoed after she had smashed the raider—another and more powerfully-armed vessel of the *Moewe* class.

The ramming by a British cruiser of a German destroyer was one that earned her crew £465 in bounty. Captain Loder-Symons, leading a column of warships on the night of March 30th, observed sparks from the hostile ship, but his helm order and his rear destroyer her in halting. The two parts were seen—one on either side of the cruiser, and the Germans officially notified the sinking of G194, with the loss of 83 lives.

JAPAN IN THE WAR.

"A TRUSTWORTHY ALLY."

The part which Japan has taken in the war was the subject of a paper read by Mr. N. Kato, the London editor of the *Mainichi*, before a meeting of the Central Asian Society on January 17th.

Mr. Kato said his country had shown that she was a trustworthy ally in the time of need, and thus had consolidated the Anglo-Japanese alliance. Only three weeks after the British declaration of war against Germany Japan also declared war, no reply having been received to her ultimatum that the Germans should withdraw all their warships from the Chinese and Japanese seas and should deliver up the leased territory of Kiaochow, with its capital Tsingtau. With the occupation of that strongly fortified military and naval base of Germany in China by Japanese troops, aided by two British battalions, and the capture of 7,600 German soldiers, the part of the Japanese Army in the war was brought to a successful end.

To several French inquirers who, when last he visited the fighting front in France, asked why Japan did not send troops to Europe, his reply was that Japan did not deem it necessary to take that course, for she was assured of the victory of the Allies; but if it were found advisable and desirable that Japan should give such help, she would not hesitate to do so. Of the naval achievements of Japan during the war an excellent account had been given by the Japanese Admiralty in the *Japanese Supplement of The Times* of September 2nd, 1916. For the production of munitions and other military supplies—chiefly for the Russian Army—Japan had mobilized all her industrial resources, and, in addition to the Government arsenals, thousands of privately-owned factories were busily engaged day and night. Financially Japan had assisted by purchasing British, French, and Russian bonds, and by the issue of a British loan of £10,000,000 in Tokyo, and the greater part of her gold reserves were deposited in the Bank of England.

WHY WE LEAD IN THE AIR.

GREATER INITIATIVE OF ALLIES' FLYING MEN.

"The development of our machines and methods during the war," said the Commandant, as I entered one of the largest of the French aviation camps, "has been marvellous, and it never ceases." What I saw during the day was a notable yet only an imperfect illustration of his dictum.

Imperfect, just because specialisation has gone so far. Practically every man now engaged must be or become a specialist in some sort, the machines are highly specialised, the squadrons are organised for particular duties, and so the camps themselves, even the largest, begin to lose their omnibus character, and to concentrate upon certain kinds of operation.

This particular camp is largely concerned with the aerial defence of the capital. It has nothing to do with the training of pilots or the testing of planes, engines, or armament; and it does not show some of the activities most characteristic of the extreme front.

A smooth, grassy plateau, flanked by huge sheds covered with sky blue canvas, and smaller barracks of brown wood. Ranged in a crescent before these buildings, some 50 planes of different types are ready for instant departure; the "Farman" fitted for bombarding expeditions or attacks upon dirigibles and "sausage" the wide-winged "Voisin," the stout and rapid "Nieuport," the terrible "Baby" of the skies. Several of these last rose and gave us a thrilling exhibition of aerial gymnastics, rolling over and lolling like dolphins at play, slipping and plunging, looping all sorts of loops in a way that would have made the masters of two or three years ago shiver in their shoes.

I imagine the French and British superiority in aerial warfare to be due chiefly to our greater development of individual initiative, quickness of mind, and resource. But as in the long history of seamanship, the tendency is for mechanical science to equalise conditions. The best of pilots is limited by the quality of his motor, and in an aerial duel the best of motors may be outdone by some superiority in the enemy's armament.

The body of mechanics in the background is, therefore, no less important than the body of pilots who are always in view; and behind both, if there be not bodies of inventors and teachers constantly advancing in expertise, the whole work must be regarded as stationary, and, therefore, doomed. Progress, rapid progress, in every part of the services of the Fifth Arm, is the condition without which the advantages already won cannot be retained.

FLYING PHOTOGRAPHERS.

At a camp on the front far away from that already referred to, I was able to examine the work of one of these sections, that of photographic information. The plates or films of enemy positions now obtained daily in good weather, show a remarkable advance upon earlier results.

New trenches, effects of gunfire, the smallest changes in the field, are immediately recorded, transferred to large-scale maps, and so conveyed to the artillery and infantry commands. The aerial photographer must fly low at the critical point, and run the same risks as the patrol, the fire-regulator, or the bombardier. Anti-aircraft batteries are not yet as formidable to the aviator, perhaps as are coast-batteries to the naval scout. The risks, however, are increasing and innumerable, and no limits yet appear to the possibilities of individual skill and daring by which the names of Guynemer, Natter, Nungesser, Beauchamp, Daucourt, and on the other side, Boelcke and Immelman, have become famous. Nevertheless, as time goes on, science counts for more, and the spirit of adventure for less, throughout this sphere.—*Daily Chronicle*.

MATCH IN MUNITION FACTORY.

A girl employed was fined £10 at Birmingham recently for having struck a match in one of the fuse huts at a local munition works. It was stated that the consequences might have been serious, as there was a large quantity of loose powder about. The girl struck the match to light a cigarette. But for her good character the magistrate said he would have sent her to prison.

FIRST AID FOR WEAK DIGESTIONS.

Almost everybody experiences times when the organs of digestion show painful signs of weakness. Some slight disturbance of health starts the trouble; then the patient turns against food, and dull, heavy pains in the abdomen give warning that the stomach is unable to do its proper work. Sometimes a false craving for food arises; if satisfied, the result is additional torture. Flatulence, a drowsy depression, sick headaches and nausea are other signs of indigestion.

The foolish practice of trying to drastic, weakening purgatives at such times should be avoided. Indigestion arises from stomach weakness, and the only effective method of remedy for this debilitated state is to strengthen the feeble organs of digestion by supplying them with richer, better blood, so that they are made fit to perform their work. This is the true tonic treatment of Indigestion, by which natural methods Dr. Williams' Pink Pills achieve great results.

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